

## FARM BUREAU AND AGRICULTURAL NOTES

### COMING EVENTS CAST THEIR SHADOWS BEFORE

Jan. 2—Brunswick Institute, Brunswick.  
 Jan. 3—Brunswick Institute, Brunswick.  
 Jan. 5, 8:00 p. m.—Chatham Twp. Annual Farm Bureau meeting, M. E. Church, Chatham.  
 Jan. 6, 8:00 p. m.—Sharon Annual F. B. meeting, Town Hall, Sharon.  
 Jan. 7, 8:00 p. m.—Clover Leaf Club, Leroy.  
 Jan. 7—Annual Meeting Medina County Farm Bureau, F. B. office.  
 Jan. 11, 8:00 p. m.—Willing Workers' Club, Brunswick.  
 Jan. 14—District Farm Bureau Meeting of Wayne, Ashland, Summit and Medina Counties, Medina.  
 Jan. 16—Annual meeting Lodi Equity, Lodi.  
 Jan. 19—Annual Meeting Seville Elevator, Seville.  
 Jan. 21—Annual Meeting of Akron Milk Producers.  
 Jan. 24—Meeting of "Montville Hustlers" Club, Poe.  
 Jan. 28, 10:30 a. m.—Annual Meeting of Litchfield Elevator, Litchfield.  
 Jan. 28, 1 p. m.—B. H. L. Elevator Annual Meeting, Valley City.  
 Jan. 28, 10:30 a. m.—Sharon Elevator Annual Meeting, Sharon.

### T. B. TEST COST AT 18 CENTS PER HEAD

The "area plan" of eradicating tuberculosis of live stock is now well established in many states. By this plan, an area of considerable size, generally a county, is freed from tuberculosis by the systematic testing of all cattle and the removal of the reactors. It has been accepted by the live-stock owners, as they evidently believe the plan is a practical one. The work can be conducted in a much shorter time and at less expense than the accredited-herd work. Then, too, it means the suppression of the disease among all the herds in a given area, in contrast with accrediting herds here and there which may be in close proximity to infected herds on adjacent farms.

As a demonstration of the feasibility of tuberculin testing of all the herds within a county, no better example can be given than the work done in Wahkiakum county, Wash., during July and August, 1921. The work started in that county August 3 and was completed Sept. 9. Every herd in the county with the exception of two was tested by Dr. L. V. Hardy, veterinary inspector of the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture.

One of the two herds not tested consisted of only two animals. This owner desired to have a test applied but was unable to catch the animals, which were running in a large pasture and were very wild. The other owner refused to submit to the test, until just as the inspector was leaving the county.

The work was carried on principal-

ly in cooperation with the farm bureau members. They furnished conveyance whenever there was a member who owned an automobile. The county appropriated funds to pay operating expenses of the automobiles and also to hire conveyances whenever necessary. Farm Bureau members cooperated so well that not a single day's time was lost on account of transportation. When it is considered that the work was done without any compulsory law or regulations, and was wholly a voluntary proceeding, it is felt that the county test was extraordinarily complete.

The actual number of herds tested was 367, comprising 4,039 cattle. The test revealed 58 tuberculous animals which were confined to 12 herds, making the total of 3 1-2 per cent. of infected herds and 1 1-2 per cent. of infected cattle. Postmortem examination on the 58 reactors revealed 100 per cent lesions of the disease. The actual test was completed at an expense of less than 18 cents per head, including \$100 appropriation by the county and a pro rata share of the over head expense of the bureau office in the State of Washington. It is planned to have an inspection return to Wahkiakum county soon to retest herds that were found infected, and, if possible, to test the two remaining cows.

### FIND WIDER INTEREST IN FARM INSTITUTES

F. L. Allen, supervisor of Farmers' Institutes, having received reports from speakers at the opening sessions of the 1921-22 series, passes on a finding that, "farm people are more in earnest about their business than ever before, and are more interested in community, as opposed to individual, affairs."

At the sessions of the first few weeks, attendance ran decidedly above all previous figures. Since then, says Mr. Allen, rough weather and bad roads have reduced the margin of increase, but attendance still runs high.

Independent institutes have been planned by a large number of communities, and promise to continue rapid growth in number. In 1919, 47 counties held 105 "independents," apart from the regular state institute sessions. Last year, the number jumped to 166 independent institutes in 63 counties. "Indications are that this ratio of increase will be maintained this year," Mr. Allen says.

### ENORMOUS DEMAND FOR COW-FEEDING BULLETIN

Demand for Ivan McKellip's bulletin on Suggestions for Computing Rations for Dairy Cows, issued in an edition of 15,000 barely a month ago, has caused the agricultural publications office of the Ohio State University already to order an additional printing of 10,000.

Mr. McKellip is extension dairyman of the University. His bulletin declares, in opening, that lack of feed-

ing knowledge, even more than scrub stock, is behind Ohio's low average milk production per cow. "No matter how well bred a dairy cow may be or how closely she may conform to dairy type and temperament, if she is not fed and cared for properly, she will not make a good producer," he writes.

The facts essential to computing rations are presented in a practical straightforward manner, the author drawing largely on experience with Ohio cowtesting associations.

The bulletin is free to any Ohio citizen desiring it. They may be obtained at the Farm Bureau office.

### POULTRY AVERAGE TOO LOW IN OHIO

Digging into the most recent census figures, extension poultrymen of the Ohio State University arrive at accurate approximations on the average poultry flock on the average farm in Ohio.

The average Ohio farm has 80 fowls valued at \$80. These produce \$236 worth of produce a year, of which \$155 worth are sold and the rest used at home.

Such a flock, say the workers, is too small to make money. Labor cost per hen runs too high. "The most efficient poultry flock for Ohio farms is between 150 and 500 laying hens. The flock of less than 150 hens is not efficient, while flocks of more than 500, though perhaps too large for the general farming, may be better adapted to specializing fruit or poultry farms."

### SCHOOLS OF OHIO FIGHT MALNUTRITION

School work to determine which children are below normal weight, and to correct this condition, is farther along in many other states than in Ohio say home economics workers of the Ohio State University. Start has been made, however, through school lunches in a number of counties, and particularly through a program of follow-up weighing work recently inaugurated in Akron.

As a preliminary step in the Akron effort, 1,011 children were weighed, and 68 per cent of them found underweight, nearly a fourth of these being more than 10 per cent, or dangerously, below the mark. These youngsters are getting warm milk and vegetable dishes in noon lunches at the schools. Weighing will be continued, and every effort made to interest both the children and their parents in bringing them up to normal size and strength. Weight, says nutrition workers, is an accurate index to health.

Such activities in other states, notably Massachusetts, show country children in no better shape than the city children. It is hoped in time to extend weighing into the rural as well as urban schools all over Ohio, as a necessary supplement to the warm school lunch movement.

### ANNOUNCE "SHORTER COURSE" FOR FARM

"Shorter Courses" will be a feature of the 15th session of Winter Short Courses for farm people which opens at the Ohio State University, Columbus, on Jan. 2. Besides 14 eight-weeks' courses, running until February 11, and two four-weeks' courses in dairying.

The innovation, says True G. Watson, secretary of the college, is for farmers unable to leave their farms for as long as eight weeks. Further to save time, the poultry course is planned to overlap Farmers' Week, January 30 to Feb. 3. The class will meet for a previous week of intensive study, take in the Farmers' Week poultry lectures, and end with a final week of study as a separate group.

The shorter dairying courses divide the regular term in two parts, but are not continuous. The first "Farm Dairy and Advanced Registry," Jan. 2-27, gives practical work in herd building and prepares for an examination which the student may take to qualify as a supervisor of advanced registry in his home locality. The second course, "Dairy Manufactures," runs from Jan. 30 to Feb. 24 and instructs in butter, cheese and ice-cream making.

Registration in winter courses need not be made until the student reaches Columbus, so it is impossible at this time to estimate enrollment. However, large numbers of advance inquiries lead the college authorities to anticipate a record registration.

### MORE FARM SPEAKERS FOR "FARMERS WEEK"

Emphasis on talks delivered by practical farmers and a somewhat smaller number of farm organization conventions are features of a program for the 1922 Farmers' Week, now being prepared at the Ohio State University. Dates for Farmers' Week this year

are from Monday, Jan. 30 to Friday, Feb. 3. Nearly all college departments and farm organizations have submitted programs to the secretary of agricultural extension work, whose task it is to correlate the material, to avoid placing two lectures of similar subject at the same hour, and to arrange adequate meeting places according to the expected size of the group.

At the last Farmers' Week, 168 speakers delivered 260 lectures before audiences totaling 6,107. For the most part, these audiences were of farmers and their families who came to Columbus for the entire week. Last year, 22 Ohio farm organizations held annual meetings during the five days' session; this year only 18 such organization meetings will be held.

Asked what changes would mark the 1922 program, George Crane, extension secretary, said that the total number of events will be slightly reduced so as to, cut down conflicts in the schedule; that more talks will be given, relatively, by farmers and fewer by professors; and that more attention than in the past will be paid to community activities, particularly along the lines of rural recreation.

### STATE DAIRY SHOW TO MAKE NEW START

The Ohio State Dairy Show, discontinued since the year that America went into the war, will open at the Ohio State University Armory on Jan. 30 and run until Feb. 3 through Farmers' Week. The exhibit, announce University officials and officers of the Progressive Dairy Club, a student organization which has assumed responsibility for gathering and placing the exhibits, will be on an entirely new plane.

As in the case of the State Corn and Grain Show, to be held under the same roof at the same time, commercial exhibits will be barred and the space formerly given them will be turned over to the educational displays. Dairy Show displays this year will be prepared by the State Experiment Station, the State Farm Bureau Federation, the State Veterinarian, the State Board of Health, the Ohio State Dairyman's association, the Advanced Registry Service, and by various departments of the College of Agriculture.

Merit ribbons rather than cash prizes will be offered for exhibits of butter, cottage cheese, milk and cream. Butter and cheese will be shown in lots of not less than 2 pounds, milk in lots of four 1-pint bottles, and cream in four 1-2 pint bottles. Milk and cream exhibitings must be from the evening milking of January 23. All such samples will thus be one week old when judged.

Producers of certified milk are barred from the contests, which are solely for farm dairymen. H. R. Jones of the Department of Dairying, the Ohio State University, Columbus, is secretary of the show.

### OHIO HOMEMAKERS CONSIDER AFFILIATION

Action was taken on a proposal to affiliate the Ohio Home Economics Association with the American Association when the state body gathered for its annual meeting in Columbus on Wednesday of this week. Because of the need, it is urged, of stronger affiliation between state and national activities. Miss Mary Sweeney, head of the home instruction at the Michigan Agricultural College and president of the American Home Economics Association, attended the Columbus meeting and addressed it. Her subject was "The Professional Responsibilities and Opportunities of Home Economics Women."

The meeting opened at Carnegie Library, Columbus, at 9:30 on Wednesday, Dec. 28. Prof. J. E. Lyman of the Ohio State University spoke on: "War Developments in Human Nutrition," and Miss Lucia Johnson of the Ohio Institute of Public Efficiency followed on "Woman's Part in Policies, Politics and Progress."

The entire afternoon session, starting at 1:30, was given over to Miss Sweeney's address, and to a business session.

### SHORTS AND MIDDLEINGS

To purchase a wagon, a gang plow, a corn binder and a grain binder at Springfield, Ohio, in 1913 took 713 bushels of corn. It would now require the sale of 2,027 bushels of corn to make such a purchase. Report of the joint Congressional Commission on Agricultural Inquiry.

"In the farming of tomorrow, the best farm implement will be the brain."—Vivian.

Six weeks to Farmers' Week, Jan. 30 to Feb. 3.

### FARMERS PLAN TO SET UP COMMISSION FIRMS

Progress toward the establishment by farmers in Ohio and nearby states of cooperative livestock commission

firms on the Cleveland and Pittsburgh markets is reported by the grain and livestock marketing department of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. At a recent meeting in Toledo of representatives of livestock shipping companies both of Ohio and Michigan, it was decided that the farmers of the two states would cooperate in plans to form such agencies.

### OUR POULTRY DEPARTMENT

Conducted by S. P. Porter  
Mallet Creek, Ohio

Poultry droppings, if properly saved and stored, so as not to lose their manurial value, form a good per cent. in the profits of poultry keeping. It is probably safe to say that probably not more than 25 per cent. of farmers and poultry raisers save their poultry droppings in a manner to get their full value as a fertilizer. In a majority of cases they are allowed to accumulate for a long time before removing from the poultry house at all, and they are pitched out of doors in a hurry, to be left to lie and leech from rains, until all value is removed from them; and it is not at all uncommon to find a farmer who does not remove the hen manure from his chicken house but once a year, and then it is dumped on a load of barnyard manure while drawing it to the field, which often brings a lot of droppings right in one place, and unless spread very thin brings too much fertilizer in one place, on account of the droppings being many times stronger in manurial value than barnyard manure.

There is one thing we must keep in mind, that poultry droppings must not be allowed to heat in the least degree, as the ammonia contained in them, and there is a lot of it, is easily liberated by their getting wet or damp from any cause. In no case should we allow the droppings to accumulate from roosting at night, to mix with the litter on the floors. Where no dropping board is used it is hard to prevent this and the hens while scratching in the litter for grain thrown to them soon spread the droppings over the entire floor space, making it very filthy. There are two ways to save the droppings so there will be little loss to them by holding the winter's supply over until time to apply them to crops in the spring. The most practical way is to use the dropping board and remove its contents every morning, which takes but a few moments. To do this a supply of road dust or dry earth should be kept on hand and a liberal sprinkling of it spread over the droppings each time after the droppings are removed. There should be enough dust or earth incorporated with the droppings to take up any moisture that may be in them so they may be stored in barrels or boxes till time that they are to be used in the spring.

#### Method of Applying

We must remember that poultry droppings being very strong in ammonia, should not be allowed to come in contact with seed of any kind, that is, the pure droppings that have not been diluted in any form. That saved and mixed with dust or dry earth is splendid for garden truck of all kinds and on account of its strength may be applied to crops in the fall with remarkably telling effect. If diluted sufficiently with road dust it may be used in the fall before planting, but if rather strong, it can be dropped around sweet corn and potatoes, and as soon as they are well out of the ground, a little going a good ways, the effect of using the droppings in this way is at once apparent and is also lasting, forcing the plants into rapid growth, giving them the rich dary color that always appears on highly fertilized plants.

It is utterly folly to plow under droppings saved by the dropping board method. It gets this highly concentrated manure too far from the plants. If to be plowed under, a good plan is to mix them with stable manure, but such manure must be kept under a shed somewhere that it may be kept dry. This mixture is great for any kind of crops, and if plowed under for some other crop one year and turned up the next for potatoes, it beats most any other kind of fertilizer.

#### Winter Maturing of Laying Hens

There are many kinds of poultry fountains on the market, each one singing its own raise. But for ease of cleaning (which is most important), there is nothing much better than a flat milk crock, one of the flat, ing side kind. It's a good plan to build a platform, say two foot or so high, up from the floor, big enough over so that with the crock sitting in the middle there is room for the hens to jump up and stand around

the edge to drink. This puts the water where the litter on the floor can not be thrown into it by the scratching of the hens, which always pollutes it quickly.

Laying hens, and those approaching the period of egg production, require a lot of water, and their supply should be kept clean and fresh at all times. Hence, the importance of using a receptacle that is easily cleaned and kept so. Nothing spreads roup quicker than a filthy drinking dish in the poultry house.

#### Number of Chickens to Certain Space

There seems to be a prevailing idea among many farmers, and some poultry men, that their supply of eggs will be large or small according to the size of the flock they can pack in to their coops; in spite of the fact that they are continually being warned by writers that over crowding is ruinous to egg production. The question is asked, what is overcrowding? Well, the breed one keeps has something to do with it. Where 12 of the larger breeds are kept with good results, 18 Leghorns may be kept with equally good results (only that they will fly as high again or more than the Rocks). However, this remark has nothing to do with coop space. In coop space 12 to 18 would be about right, but as to yard space, it's different. The Rocks being more quiet, as many of them can be yarded with no bad results. As of Leghorns, we have found that with American varieties, 35 birds to a pen 14 x 16 is the limit and if more is kept it is at a loss. But it's safe to say that 30 hens in this space will produce as many eggs thru the whole season as the 35 would. "But," says one, "how can that be?" Oh it's easy when you think of it. They can't eat so well, drink so well, sleep so well, or exercise so well, hence can not lay so well.

Some years ago, the writer called to see an old friend in the poultry business, and found him wintering 212 hens and 7 male birds in a coop 16x40; saw him feed and water, and this was what happened. As he threw feed on the floor: The birds scattered it pretty good, the whole flock pounced onto it to get their share, with the result that some of them got very little, and when he watered them it was in four drinking fountains for the whole bunch, where only one bird could drink at a time. And late in February he was only getting 15 to 20 eggs a day, he said. Well, he was the kind of a chap that knows it all, so I said nothing; but did a lot of thinking, and my thoughts ran like this: Instead of having this big flock all in one big room, why did he not partition it off into at least four compartments? That would be better, and even then he had twice as many birds to the space as he should have. Then, was he so blind that he could not see that he was really starving his big flock? "Oh," said he, "they'll come to it when warm weather comes." Well, I thought to myself, yes, if they live till that time. This of course is an extreme case, but results are practically the same, according to space given them. But if for breeding purposes, space for a given number of birds should be at least one half layers. For exercise is even more important than with the ordinary layers, and crowding cannot be allowed at all.

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